

BERWYN PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD MINUTES

February 17, 2009 Regular Meeting
Library Board Room, Riverside Drive & Harlem Avenue

Call to Order

President John Chrastka called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Present were Members Jill Bambenek, Roxanne Faulds Eileen Pech, Jerome Pohlen, Maria Salinas and Louise Sommese. Member Tardy: Irene Martin arriving at 7:10. Member Absent: Doris Remp. Also present: Director Bill Hensley and Staff Members: Diane Jepsen, Briana Perlot and resident Isabelle Ryan.

Agenda

On a motion by Pech followed by a unanimous vote of the seven members present, the agenda was amended to include the Closed Session minutes of January 19, 2009. The title of the Policy Committee was corrected to reflect its new mission of Policy and Personnel and a grievance discussion was added to its report.

Minutes

On successive motions by Pech and Bambenek, the January 19 regular minutes and closed session minutes were approved as presented.

Correspondence

President Chrastka read a letter from retired City Clerk Donald Pechous commending Pech for the writing of "The History of the Berwyn Public Library."

Director's Report

Hensley reported 71 free copies of the history have been distributed and seven copies have been sold. The book has been catalogued by the Metropolitan Library Service and is in the collection of Dominican University and a number of area libraries.

A \$4,000 Community Development Block Grant has been received and a number of LSTA grants are being applied for, the Director said. It is hoped one of the grants can cover an expansion of the Outreach Department's new Early Literacy Program which already has reached its 500 student capacity.

A Nicor Company construction crew reportedly cut into telephone lines causing the Berwyn Fire Department to respond to numerous phantom 9-1-1 calls from the Library and other 3rd Ward properties.

Literature was distributed to the Board on the Library's oral history projects for Veterans' wartime experiences and Berwyn residents' memories of early Berwyn.

Finance Report

On a motion by Sommese and a roll call vote with Martin now present, the Board unanimously approved January payables of \$128,572.84. Treasurer Sommese reported book sale receipts increased the Building Fund Balance to \$677.94.

Buildings and Grounds Committee

The committee will prepare requests for proposals on HVAC condenser bundle replacement.

Policy and Personnel Committee

On successive motions by Pech, the Board unanimously voted to:

1. adopt the Photo Consent Policy and Form as presented;
2. reconsider that portion of the overdue fine authorization adopted in January stating that "Fines on overdue audio-visual items will increase to a maximum of \$26"; and

3. replaced it with a textual change in the Circulation Policy stating that “The fine shall not exceed the cost of the item.”

By consensus, the Committee was authorized to develop for Board consideration a table set-up fee as part of a revised Meeting Room Policy. At Bambenek’s suggestion, the Committee will explore a stepped fee structure based on the elaborateness of the set-up.

President Chrastka reported receipt of a grievance from the local AFSCME union which will be discussed in an executive session of the Policy and Personnel Committee. Policies for handling future grievances will be discussed at the next regular meeting of the Committee which will be expanded to include Faulds as a third member. Chrastka and Hensley will continue as ex-officio members.

Strategic Planning Committee

Chrastka asked the Director to set up a meeting with approximately six selected staff members to develop strategies to achieve goals outlined in the draft of the Strategic Plan.

Unfinished Business

Sunday hours resume Sunday, March 1, with celebratory refreshments on that first day.

Alderman Mark Weiner will draft a document seeking City Council solutions for damage and unauthorized parking in the library’s offsite lot, Hensley said.

New Business

Amnesty days will be offered April 13-19 during National Library Week, shortly after the library’s new overdue fine structure goes into effect, the Director said.

Committee Meetings

Policy and Personnel will hold two meetings:

1. A closed teleconference meeting at 12:30 p.m. Friday, February 20
2. A regular committee meeting at 7 p.m. Monday, March 2.

Succession Planning will meet at 7 p.m. Monday, March 9.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:59

Eileen Pech, Secretary